

Marco Polo

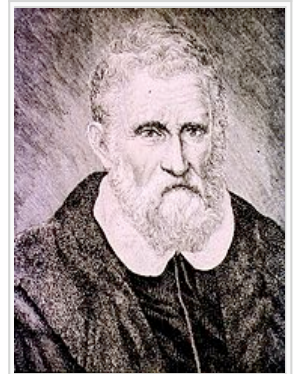
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Marco Polo (1254 - January 8 1324) was an Italian trader and explorer. Marco Polo was the first man to explore across Asia and to go to the “Far East”. He was one of the first to explore the world. Many other explorers, including Christopher Columbus, looked up to him.

He went on a 25 year trip to China with his father and uncle during the Mongol Dynasty.

He grew up in Venice and his mother died when he was young. He had two male siblings Maffeo and Niccolo Polo who he went exploring with. His family were traders, not explorers.

He started his travels at the age of 15 he took off from Venice on a boat and went through the Mediterranean Sea, Ayas, Tabriz and Kerman. Then he went across Asia all the way to the “Far East” also known as Beijing. On the way there he had to go over mountains and through terrible deserts. Across hot burning lands and places where the cold was horrible. He served in Khans court for 17 years and left the “Far East” to come back to Venice by sea. There was sickness on board and 600 passengers and crew died some say pirates attacked.



Portrait of Marco Polo

Some scholars think that Marco Polo did go to China, but did not go to all of the other places described in his book. He brought noodles back from China and the Italians formed all new sizes and shapes and called it Pasta.

Soon after Marco Polo's returned from his journeys he fought in a war against Genoa, got captured and put in prison. When he was in prison he wrote a famous book called the “The travels of Marco Polo”, and became famous among Europeans. They found his stories to be very interesting and strange. Western people in those days did not know much about the Eastern world.

Marco Polo's nickname was Marco Millione standing for a million lies as the Venetians thought he was lying about his travels.

Trivia

- There is a game named after him often played in a swimming pool amongst children. It can also be played on land, in that case it is similar to "The Blind Man's Buff"



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